The Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2023 - 8:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 215 N. Warren St. Orwigsburg, PA 570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

R. Anderson

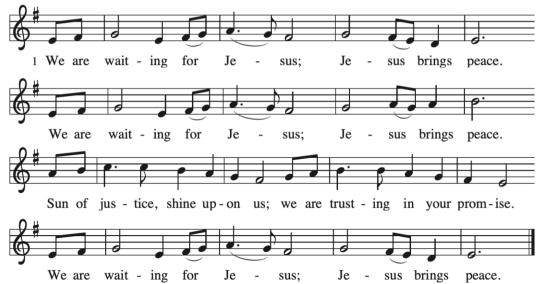
THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure, and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

We praise you, Almighty God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

"We Are Waiting for Jesus"

[Two candles are lit.]



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us now confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

O God of love and forgiveness,

we confess that we have lost our way and are captive to sin.

We have neither welcomed the stranger, nor loved our neighbor.

We have not shared your good gifts with those in need.

Open our hearts and hands,

that we may be reconciled and renewed by the light of Christ. Amen.

Know that through Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven, and that you are freed to live as children of God.

Amen.

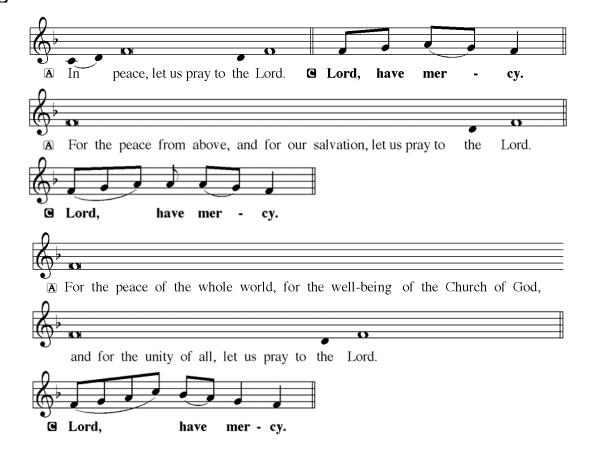
GATHERING HYMN

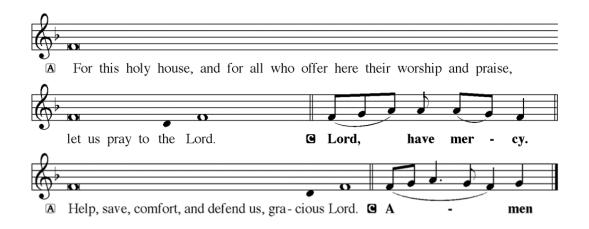
"Prepare the Royal Highway" [See back of bulletin]

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection, awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

WORD

A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. (Isaiah 40:1-11)

Thanks be to God.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

A READING FROM SECOND PETER

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. (2 Peter 3:8-15a)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" [See back of bulletin]

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Energize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your presence is felt in the brightness of the heavens, in the changing of the seasons, and in the life of every creature. Help us be good stewards of all that you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. May every good word be coupled with many good deeds. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remind us that you are present in the darkness as well as in the light, that we might trust and believe that we are never truly alone. Keep us strong in our faith and bold in our witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You gather your saints from every time and place in a great eternal fellowship. Help us to trust in you and follow in faith, that we too might join them and eternally sing your praise. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

(*Pastor concludes*): Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you. And also with you.

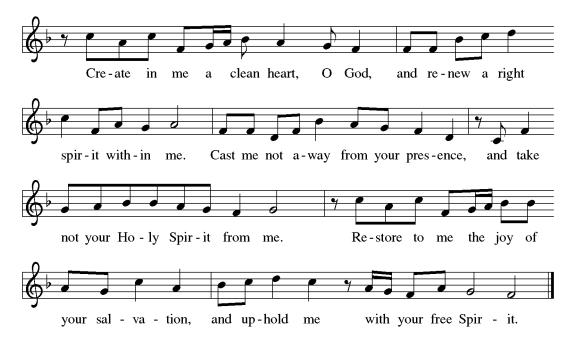
OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

R. Lau

OFFERTORY HYMN

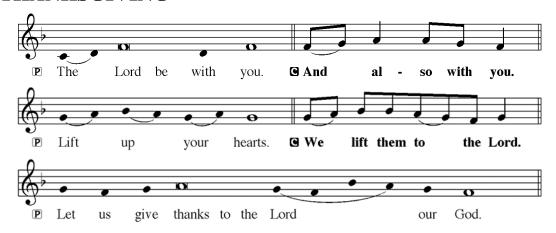


OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance and new life, we bring before you the fruits of your creation, and with them we offer our very lives. Teach us patience, renew our hope, and help us to care for those in need, until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

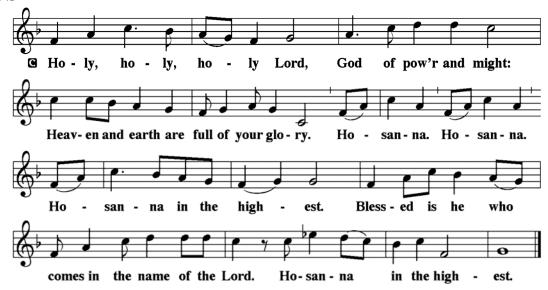
GREAT THANKSGIVING





It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. After you have received the Sacrament, you may choose to briefly stand at the chancel rail before returning to your seat.

If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest.

Those who are unable to come forward should indicate that they wish to receive the Sacrament and they will receive it as they sit in their pew.

Communion is shared with those seated on the pulpit side and then the lectern side.

AGNUS DEI

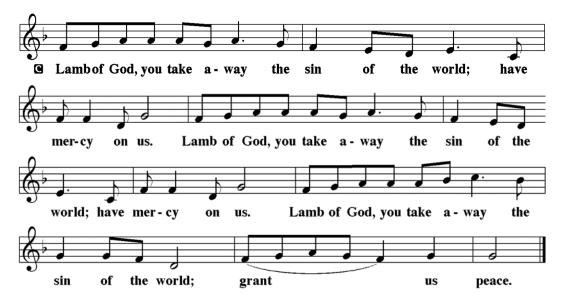


TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, you have invited us to feast with you and with one another in this holy meal. Nourished now in body and spirit, send us forth from this table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Hark, the Glad Sound" [See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go now in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Allegro" G. F. Handel

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Alexandra and Victoria's birthdays by their parents.

Chancel flowers are presented in loving memory of Clark "Duke" Schenck by Sue, Kurt, and Julie.

Bulletins are presented in honor of Travis Moyer's Birthday (Dec. 10) by his grandmother, Fern Moyer.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (12/10/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers

COMMUNION ASST.: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: Bill Smoot; LECTOR: Deb Bolinsky

COMMUNION ASST.: Pay Kunkle

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Diane Brobst, and Marlene Eidam

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/17/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Connie Teter

COMMUNION ASST.: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: David Kriner; LECTOR: Tom Wehr

COMMUNION ASST.: Wayne Lutsey

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long

COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S				
Sunday, December 10	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion Children's Christmas Pageant"		
Monday, December 11	7:00 PM	Council		
Wednesday, December 13	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Bell Choir Chancel Choir		
Saturday, December 16	5:30 PM	Worship		
Sunday, December 17	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 4:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion Christmas Concert		

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

The ELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners in the Middle East. Your donations designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support to those whose lives have been impacted by disasters in the region. Gifts may be given by check to St. Paul's Lutheran Church with the memo line "Middle East Crisis." Cash donations should also indicate that the donation is for the "Middle East Crisis."

WELCA NEWS

Please donate any extra 2024 calendars you may have to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry. Place calendars on the table in the gathering room by December 14th.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our annual Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m. The program includes traditional carols, music by St. Paul's Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and instrumentalists. Join us for light refreshments and fellowship following the concert.

2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN DEDICATIONS

The green Flower and Bulletin binder has been updated! Sponsors for Altar flowers, Chancel flowers, and bulletins can now be dedicated for the year 2024.

ANGEL TREE

Our Angel Tree project provides gifts to children who visit the Orwigsburg Food Pantry. We ask that you spend about \$20 per tag. Each child will also have a stocking that you can fill with age-appropriate goodies. The wrapped gift, the Angel Tree tag, and the filled stockings are due TODAY. Contact Deb Bolinsky at (570) 789-3540 or bolinksy5@verizon.net with questions.

PRE-SCHOOL BOOKS NEEDED!

The pre-school age children's books for the Food Pantry are due TODAY. Please contact Karen Travor (610)507-2797 with any questions.

ATTENTION: ALL COMMITTEE LEADERS

Your year-end reports for 2023 will be needed by Sunday, January 7, 2024. Please have them completed, proofread, and ready for print by the deadline date. Email your file(s) to: office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Take a copy of our monthly newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube. Get to know us better! We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here -- to the glory of God. Contact our church office at 570-366-2316 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

SHARE YOUR INFORMATION

If you have names and addresses of members who can no longer join us for worship (e.g., homebound, college students, military personnel, recently moved), please call Connie Teter (at 570-366-0255) or contact any member of the Evangelism Committee. Cards of support and encouragement signed by church members can lift the spirits of those who cannot worship with us in person.

Reverend Michael T. Petresky 570-36	6-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	
Karen Travor, Treasurer	610-507-2797	karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

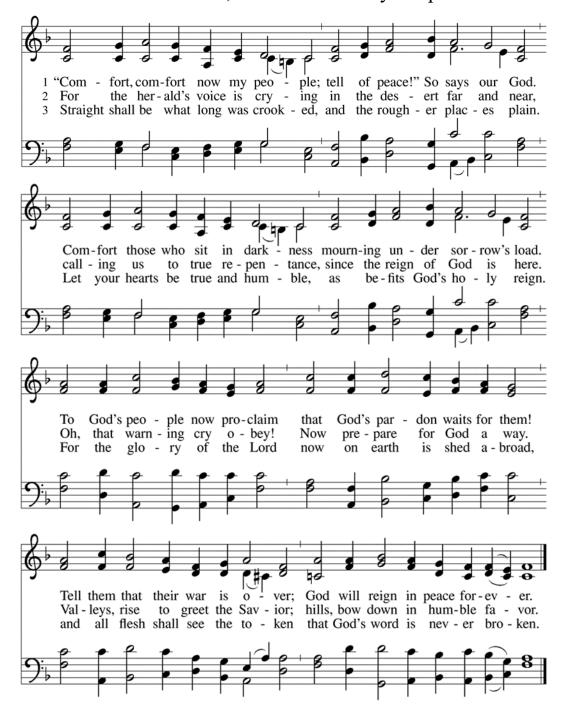


ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SET

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday February 18, 2024, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please mark your new calendar for this important meeting!

In case of inclement weather (or other emergency), our annual meeting may be held on the following Sunday at the same time.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"



"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Second Sunday School class will take place on January 14, 2024! Children ages 1-10 are welcome to come upstairs during the 10:30 AM service for Bible stories, fun, fellowship, and a snack.

Students ages 11 to 18 are invited to join me between the services (9:15 - 10:15 a.m.) for a teen Sunday School group.

Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) swoodring86@hotmail.com.

COMMUNION HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



SENDING HYMN

"Hark, the Glad Sound"

